



# Memo

To: Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform

From: Operations Committee

Date: July 16, 2007

Re: Recommendations for a consolidated proposal process

---

## **Purpose of this Memo**

The purpose of this memo is to provide the Commission with a detailed description of the activities, dates, and staff support for developing the consolidated proposal. This memo will be presented to the Commission at its Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting for approval.

## **Elements of the Process Approved by the Commission in June**

At its June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Commission approved the process for developing the consolidated proposal:

- ? Expand the Health Reform Proposals Committee to include all Commissioners interested in developing the consolidated proposal;
- ? Require the Committee to develop the consolidated proposal by answering the 38 questions in the solicitation for Health Care Reform Proposal developed by the Commission;
- ? Have staff summarize the comprehensive proposals, narrow proposals, and Commissioner ideas relevant to the 38 questions in advance of each Committee meeting

## **Additions and Changes to the Process**

This memo builds on the decisions made at the June Commission meeting by adding dates, times, specific activities, and staff roles to the schedule. In particular, this schedule includes:

- ? A date change for two of the Committee meetings
- ? The addition of six specification telephone calls with Lewin
- ? Dates for staff providing Commissioners with summaries of options presented in proposals
- ? Deadlines for Commissioners to submit their ideas for the consolidated proposal

## **General Structure for the Consolidated Proposal Committee Meetings**

Each of the five Committee meetings will be structured in a similar way, as follows:

- ? Two weeks in advance, Sarah sends all Commissioners background material, including:
  - o Questions to be answered at the Committee meeting
  - o Relevant baseline data from Lewin
  - o Options for answering questions based on proposals and parking lot
- ? One week in advance, Commissioners submit any additional options to Sarah
- ? Three days in advance of Committee meeting, Sarah sends updated list of options to all Commissioners, based on Commissioner suggestions
- ? Committee meeting includes interested Commissioners, Sarah, and Lewin (by phone); Barbara Yondorf chairs meeting
- ? At meeting, Commissioners review baseline data, proposal ideas, Commissioner ideas; then develop answers to the questions
- ? After Committee meeting, Sarah sends answers developed by Committee to all Commissioners
- ? Follow-up conference call with Lewin is conducted with interested Commissioners
- ? During conference calls, participating Commissioners answer specification questions from Lewin, consistent with decisions made at Committee meetings
- ? For any specification that cannot be agreed upon during calls, Lewin will develop assumptions consistent with decisions made at Committee meetings
- ? Decisions made at Committee meetings and specification calls will be taken to August 23<sup>rd</sup> and September 10<sup>th</sup> Commission meetings for discussion and approval

## **Schedule of Activities for Developing the Consolidated Proposal**

**Commission Meeting: Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 AM-5:00 PM**

**Colorado Hospital Association**

- ? Agree on the answers to the key questions:
  1. What will be the role of the individual for obtaining, paying for, and controlling care?
  2. Will there be an individual mandate?
  3. What will be the role of employers?
  4. What will be the role of government?
  5. Will there be an expansion and/or reform of the Medicaid and CHP+ programs?
  6. Will portability or continuity of coverage be assured?
  7. Will there be subsidies to assure affordable coverage?
  8. What will the minimum benefits be?
- ? Hear from Len Nichols on options for answering the key questions, pros and cons of the options, and state experience with the questions

**Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**

- ? Sarah sends coverage, benefit and affordability background material to Commissioners
- ? Sarah sends portability, access, and quality background material to Commissioners
- ? Commissioners submit their coverage, benefit and affordability ideas to Sarah
- ? Sarah sends final coverage, benefits and affordability ideas to Commissioners that reflects ideas of proposals and Commissioners

**Commission Meeting 8:00-10:00 AM & Committee Meeting 10:00 AM 5:00 PM**

**Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Denver Chamber of Commerce**

- ? Final approval of answers to key questions
- ? Determine if one of the four proposals can be used as a platform for the consolidated proposal
- ? Answer *coverage, benefit and affordability*, questions:
  1. Will the proposal “expand health care coverage?” How?
  2. How will outreach and enrollment be conducted?
  3. If applicable, how will the proposal define “resident?”
  4. How will the proposal assure that benefits are adequate, have appropriate limitations and address distinct populations?
  5. Identify an existing Colorado benefit package that is similar to the one(s) in the proposal (e.g. Small Group Standard Plan, Medicaid, etc) and describe any differences between the existing benefit package and the benefit package.
  6. If applicable, what will enrollee and/or employer premium-sharing requirements be?
  7. How will co-payments and other cost-sharing be structured?
- ? Commissioners submit their portability, access, and quality ideas to Sarah
- ? Sarah sends background material on efficiency, consumer choice, and wellness to Commissioners

**Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>**

- ? Sarah sends final portability, access, and quality ideas to Commissioners that reflects ideas of proposals and Commissioners
- ? Sarah sends preliminary answers on coverage, benefits and affordability to Commissioners and Lewin

**Specification Call: Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00-11:30 AM**

- ? Answer specification questions from Lewin regarding coverage, benefits, and affordability, consistent with decisions made at Committee meetings

**Specification Call: Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00-11:30 AM**

- ? Continue to answer specification questions from Lewin regarding coverage, benefits, and affordability, consistent with decisions made at Committee meetings

**Committee Meeting: Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 AM-5:00 PM**

**Community Resource Center**

? Answer *portability, access and quality* questions:

1. How will the proposal assure that individuals maintain access to coverage even as life circumstances (e.g. employment, public program eligibility) and health status change?
2. How will the proposal expand access?
3. How will the program affect safety net providers?
4. How will quality be defined, measured, and improved?
5. How, if at all, will quality of care be improved (e.g. using methods such as applying evidence to medicine, using information technology, improving provider training, aligning provider payment with outcomes, and improving cultural competency including ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, education, and rural areas, etc.?)

? Commissioners submit their efficiency, consumer choice, and wellness ideas to Sarah

? Sarah sends background material on sustainability to Commissioners

**Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**

? Sarah sends final efficiency, consumer choice, and wellness ideas to Commissioners that reflects ideas of proposals and Commissioners

? Sarah sends preliminary answers on portability, access, and quality to Commissioners and Lewin

**Specification Call: Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>**

**8:30-10:00 AM**

? Answer specification questions from Lewin regarding portability, access, and quality, consistent with decisions made at Committee meetings

**Committee Meeting: Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 AM-5:00 PM**

**Community Resource Center**

- ? Answer *efficiency (including cost containment), consumer choice and wellness* questions
  1. Does will the proposal decrease or contain health care costs? How?
  2. How will the proposal impact administrative costs?
  3. Will the proposal address transparency of costs and quality? If so, please explain.
  4. To what extent will the proposal use incentives for providers, consumers, plans or others to reward behavior that minimizes costs and maximizes access and quality in the health care services? Please explain.
  5. Does the proposal address consumer choice? If so, how?
  6. How, if at all, would the proposal help consumers to be more informed about and better equipped to engage in health care decisions?
  7. How does the proposal address wellness and prevention?
- ? Commissioners submit their sustainability ideasto Sarah
- ? Sarah sends background material on administration and implementation to Commissioners

**Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- ? Sarah sends final sustainability ideas to Commissioners that reflects ideas of proposals and Commissioners
- ? Sarah sends preliminary answers on efficiency (including cost containment), consumer choice and wellness to Commissioners and Lewin

**Commission Meeting: Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**8:00 AM-5:00 PM**

**Englewood City Center**

- ? Review draft consolidated proposal (except financing)

**Specification Call: Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**

**8:30-10:00 AM**

- ? Answer specification questions from Lewin regarding efficiency (including cost containment), consumer choice and wellness, consistent with decisions made at Committee meetings

**Committee Meeting: Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:00 AM-5:00 PM**

? Answer *sustainability* questions

1. How is the proposal sustainable over the long-term?
2. (Optional) How much will the proposal cost? How much will the proposal save? Please explain.
3. Who will pay for any new costs under the proposal?
4. How will distribution of costs for individuals, employees, employers, government, or others be affected by the proposal? Will each experience increased or decreased costs? Please explain.
5. Are there new mandates that put specific requirements on payers in the proposal? Are any existing mandates on payers eliminated under the proposal? Please explain.
6. (Optional) How will the proposal impact cost-shifting? Please explain.
7. Are new public funds required for the proposal?
8. If the proposal requires new public funds, what will be the source of these new funds?

? Commissioners submit their ideas regarding administration and implementation to Sarah

**Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**

? Sarah sends final administration and implementation ideas to Commissioners that reflects ideas of proposals and Commissioners

? Sarah sends preliminary answers on sustainability (financing) to Commissioners and Lewin

**Specification Call: Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**

**8:30-10:00 AM**

? Answer specification questions from Lewin regarding efficiency (including cost containment), consumer choice and wellness, consistent with decisions made at Committee meetings

### **Committee Meeting: Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup>**

? Answer *administration and implementation* questions

1. How will the program(s) included in the proposal be governed and administered?
2. Will any federal or state laws or regulations need to be changed to implement the proposal (e.g. federal Medicaid waiver, worker's compensation, auto insurance, ERISA)? If known, what changes will be necessary?
3. How will the program be implemented? How will the proposal transition from the current system to the proposal program? Over what time period?

### **Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**

? Sarah sends complete preliminary answers, including sustainability (financing), to Commissioners and Lewin

### **Specification Call: Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

**8:30-10:00 AM**

? Answer specification questions from Lewin regarding efficiency (including cost containment), consumer choice and wellness, consistent with decisions made at Committee meetings

**Commission Meeting: Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**

- ? Approve full consolidated proposal and specifications for first round of modeling

**Commission Meeting: October 4<sup>th</sup>**

- ? Review first round modeling results (sent to Commissioners October 1st)
- ? Approve revised specifications

**Commission Meeting: October 25<sup>th</sup>**

- ? Review second round modeling results (sent to Commissioners October 22nd)
- ? Approve revised specifications

**Commission Meeting: November 15<sup>th</sup>**

- ? Review final round modeling results (sent to Commissioners on November 12th)